

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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P R 171126Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 4264

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLAS BEIRUT 10951

CURRENT REACTION ATTN IOR/M IBS IPS INE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: SYRIAN-ISRAELI AIR BATTLE - EASTERN FRONT

1. SYRIAN-ISRAELI AIR BATTLE SUBJ OF WIDE EDITORIAL COMMENT
OVER WEEKEND.

2. LEFTIST PRO-COMMANDO AL MUHARRIR, DESCRIBED BATTLE AS VICTORY
FOR SYRIA BECAUSE "WHEN AIR BATTLE CONTINUES FOR 3 HOURS AND 10
MINUTES, WHICH IS LONGER THAN DURATION OF MANY LAND BATTLES,
WHEN ENEMY IS FORCED TO THROW 64 PLANES INTO BATTLE AND WHEN
SYRIAN EAGLES STAND FIRMLY WITH UNPRECEDENTED COURAGE AND INFLECT
HEAVY CASUALTIES ON ENEMY, IT CAN ONLY BE SAID THAT YESTERDAY'S
BATTLE WAS VICTORY FOR SYRIA, ITS PEOPLE AND ITS PILOTS. OF
COURSE NO ONE CAN DENY SUPERIORITY OF ISRAELI AIRFORCE THANKS
TO AMERICAN AID WHICH IS POURING UPON IT INCESSANTLY, WHETHER
IN FORM OF PHANTOMS AND SKYHAWKS OR IN FORM OF JEWISH-AMERICAN
PILOTS (LATEST AMERICAN SHIPMENT WAS ANNOUNCED FEW DAYS AGO).
BUT ISRAELI SUPERIORITY OVER ARAB STATES CAN NEVER REACH LEVEL OF
AMERICAN AIR SUPERIORITY OVER NORTH VIETNAM. DESPITE THAT,
VIETNAM RESISTED AND INTERCEPTED AND SHOT DOWN THOUSANDS OF
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US PLANES. IT WAS NEVER SCARED, HESITANT OR TERRIFIED. THIS IS

EXACTLY WHAT SYRIA IS NOW DOING...ARAB RETORT TO THIS JOINT ZIONIST-AMERICAN CHALLENGE SHOULD NOT BE BY HAILING SYRIA AND CHEERING IT. NOR SHOULD IT BE BY THREATENING TO CUT OFF OIL, TO FREEZE PRODUCTION OR TO NATIONALIZE OUR OIL. RATHER, IT SHOULD BE BY TRANSLATING ALL THESE WORDS INTO ACTS."

3. CONSERVATIVE AL HAYAT SAW THINGS DIFFERENTLY. PAPER SAID: "ALL FOREIGN PAPERS WHICH PUBLISHED DETAILS OF LAST THURSDAY'S AIR BATTLE BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISAREL - SOME BY THEIR MILITARY EXPERTS - STATED THAT MAIN REASON FOR HIGH NUMBER OF SYRIAN CASUALTIES IS DUE TO FACT THAT MIG-21 POSSESSED BY SYRIAN AIRFORCE IS INFERIOR TO AMERICAN PHANTOM AND THAT ANY PILOT, NO MATTER HOW CAPABLE HE MIGHT BE, CAN NEVER SHOOT DOWN PHANTOM WHICH SOVIET MIG 21 EXCEPT BY MIRACLE OR COINCIDENCE. FOREIGN PAPERS ADD THAT ONLY SOVIET PLANE CAPABLE OF INTERCEPTING PHANTOM AND SHOOTING IT DOWN IS MIG 23. BUT THIS PLANE DOES NOT EXIST IN SYRIA, EGYPT OR IRAQ...WHEN MOSCOW REFUSES TO SUPPLY ITS ARAB FRIENDS WITH ONLY TYPE OF PLANE THAT IS CAPABLE OF DESTROYING MYTH OF ISRAELI AIR SUPERIORITY, IT DOES THAT IN HARMONY WITH AREA BALANCE OF POWER FORMULA AGREED UPON WITH US WHICH HAS BECOME MOSCOW'S PARTNER IN DETENTE AGREEMENT WHICH ENDED COLD WAR IN WORLD."

4. PRO-CAIRO AL ANWAR BELIEVES "ISRAELI AGGRESSION" AGAINST SYRIA WAS "NOT SPUR OF MOMENT BUT BEGINNING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN TO CONFRONT ESCALATING ARAB PRESSURE." BY ITS AGGRESSION, SAID AL ANWAR, "ISAREL MEANT TO HIT THREE TARGETS: TESTING ARAB MILITARY STRENGTH, SCORING MORAL VICTORY FOLLOWING ALGIERS CONFERENCE; AND WEAKENING ARAB MORALE FOLLOWING SUMMIT MEETING OF CONFRONTATION STATES. NATURALLY, THESE CONSIDERATIONS CAN BE TIED TO NEW AMERICAN PLAN WHOSE IMPLEMENTATION WAS ENTRUSTED TO KISSINGER, NAMELY, TO 'PERSUADE' "ARABS BY ALL MEANS TO SIT AT NEGOTIATIONS TABLE WITH ISRAEL."

5. LEFTIST PRO-SOVIET ASH SHAAB SAID: "ISRAEL IS FIERCE AND MEAN AGGRESSIVE FORCE, AT SAME TIME IT IS INTELLIGENT. IT KNOWS WELL THAT ITS EXISTENCE IS TIED TO ITS MILITARY STRENGTH AND TO ITS DEPENDENCE UPON US. IT NEVER HESITATED AND WILL NEVER HESITATE TO USE THIS STRENGTH WHENEVER IT SEES OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSOLIDATION OF ITS FALSEHOOD AND WEAKENING OF ENEMY POWER. NOR WILL IT

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HESITATE IN EXPLOITING AMERICAN BACKING AS LONG AS IT CONTINUES. PROBABLY EVEN IF IT FELT LEAST SLACKENING ON WASHINGTON'S PART, WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM INTERNATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES - AND THIS IS NOT HAPPENING NOW AND MAY NOT HAPPEN ONE DAY OWING TO PENETRATION OF JEWISH ZIONIST INFLUENCE INTO HEART OF AMERICAN POLITICAL LIFE - IT WOULD BE MORE APT TO USE ITS MILITARY CARD TO SPEED UP END THAT WOULD BE IN ITS FAVOR, BLOCKING EVERY PATH, STRAIGHT OR CROOKED, THAT US MIGHT FOLLOW IN ORDER TO

PRESSURE IT AND WREST CONCESSIONS FROM IT."

6. INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR WONDERED WHY THERE SHOULD BE EASTERN
FRONT IF WE SAY "ONE DAY WE DISCUSS ITS REVIVAL AND ON EVE
OF AGGRESSION AGAINST SYRIA, THAT USSR DOES NOT SUPPLY US
WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS. WOULD ESTABLISHMENT OF EASTERN
FRONT IMPROVE QUALITY OF ARMS EXISTING NOW, WHICH WE CONSIDER
TO BE NOT ADEQUATELY ADVANCEED? WILL USSR BECOME MORE PREPARED
TO SUPPLY US WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FOR POLITICAL REASONS
FOR WHICH WE ARE RESPONSIBLE?"
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS, JET AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT10951
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730931/aaaaawov.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN-ISRAELI AIR BATTLE - EASTERN FRONT
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, UR, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005